

INTELLIGENCE COMMUNITY STAFF

16 October 1987

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FROM:

DD/PPD

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1. Attached is yet another attempt to explain what is meant by space leadership. This paper incorporates parts of some of the other inputs you have received.

2. However, you should know that, I agree with those who argue that the policy of maintaining space leadership needs to be changed. It is too open-ended and subject to abuse by all special pleaders.

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Space Leadership - Space leadership means that the US is unsurpassed in its chosen areas of space endeavor, and that these are generally recognized, both domestically and internationally, as bold, innovative, useful, and of the highest importance in terms of economic benefits, technical challenge, scientific benefit, or support for national security. The US should maintain space leadership for the following reasons:

- o To remain in a position it has held in the world's eyes for 30 years, a departure from which would damage US prestige and be inconsistent with our role as a superpower.
- o To build national pride
- o To support national security with vital military and intelligence functions in this high leverage area that will greatly influence future warfare.
- o To support foreign policy by providing an attractive vehicle for space-related cooperative activities with other nations.
- o To support the US science effort.
- o To stimulate technology spinoffs and thus support US economic competitiveness
- o To provide economic benefits through the provision of commercial space-related goods and services.

Although space leadership is in part a matter of perception, it can also be defined in terms of the achievement of key goals. Leadership does not require that the US be preeminent in all areas and disciplines of space enterprise. It does demand that we choose our goals wisely and demonstrate the ability to achieve them. Appropriate goals include:

- o Maintain a superior ability to support earth bound military forces and pursue new capabilities for force application. This implies a requirement for robust space capabilities that can negate comparable adversary systems and survive hostilities if necessary.
- o Stymie Soviet and others effects to deny the US critical information collected from space, retaining the US ability to monitor treaties, support crisis management, provide warning, and support the formulation and execution of policy.

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- o Implement a recognized superior program in the principal civil areas of space--planetary exploration, science, earth resources, and manned programs. Ensure that the US acquires and exploits a major portion of new space-related scientific and technical knowledge.
- o Develop and employ leading-edge technology that can be spun off for non-space use.
- o Develop competitive and profitable commercial space industries.
- o Implement a strong program of foreign cooperation and participation in US civil space activities.

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